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**MIPI<sup>®</sup> A-PHY<sup>SM</sup>:**  
**Laying the Groundwork for MIPI's Automotive SerDes Solutions**

**MOBILE & BEYOND**

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DEVELOPERS  
CONFERENCE**

**22-23  
SEPTEMBER  
2020**

[MIPI.ORG/DEVCON](https://mipi.org/devcon)

# Presentation Outline

## MIPI A-PHY – System View

Ariel Lasry

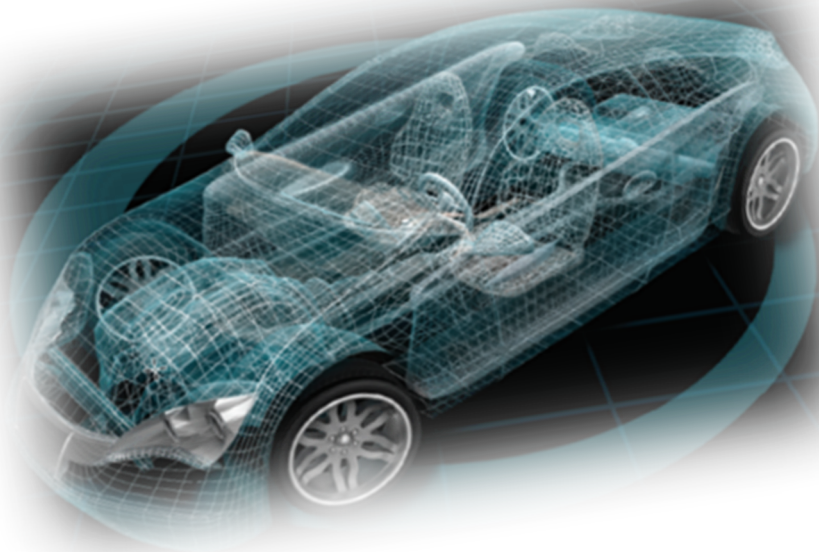
*Director, MIPI Alliance Board of Directors*

## MIPI A-PHY – Specification Overview

Edo Cohen

*MIPI A-PHY Subgroup Vice-Lead*

## Q&A





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**MIPI A-PHY – System View**  
Ariel Lasry - MIPI Alliance Board Director

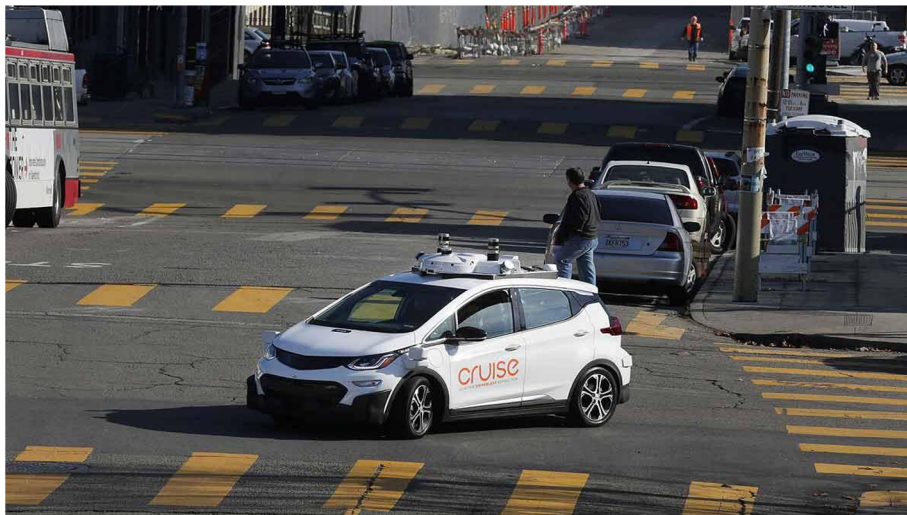
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# Auto Industry Transformation



*Honda and GM Partner to Develop Mass Produced, Driverless Cars*

Source: October 4, 2018, Automotive News

MIPI directly supports *CASE* via:

- **Connected** (MIPI RFFE<sup>SM</sup>, others)
- **Automated** (MIPI A-PHY, MIPI CSI-2<sup>SM</sup>, others)

## CASE:

- **Connected** • **Automated**
- **Shared** • **Electrified**

- 
- **Connected:** The move to 5G
  - **Automated:** The move to L2/L2+ and beyond
  - **Shared:** New OEMs, new business models, new alliances
  - **Electrified:** Tesla and others

And . . .

**Safety:** Improved government safety regulations (FCWS, AEB, RVS, LDWS, etc.)

**Fuel economy:** Aggressive regulations

**RFFE:** RF Front End

**FCWS:** Forward Collision Warning System

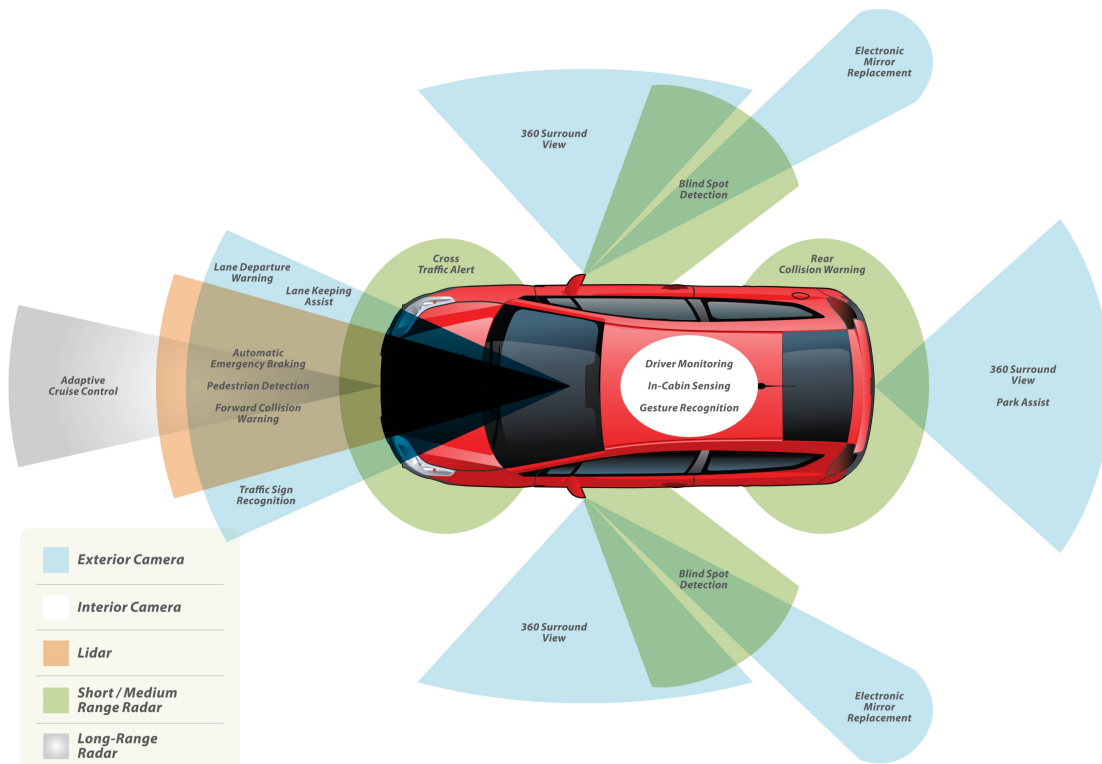
**LDWS:** Lane Departure Warning System

**AEB:** Autonomous Emergency Breaking

**RVS:** Rear View System



# NCAP Regulations Driving Sensors & Display Adoption



- Worldwide NCAP ADAS and ADS standards driving adoption of multiple high data rate “surround sensors”
- Displays for driver viewing of assistance imaging and information also require

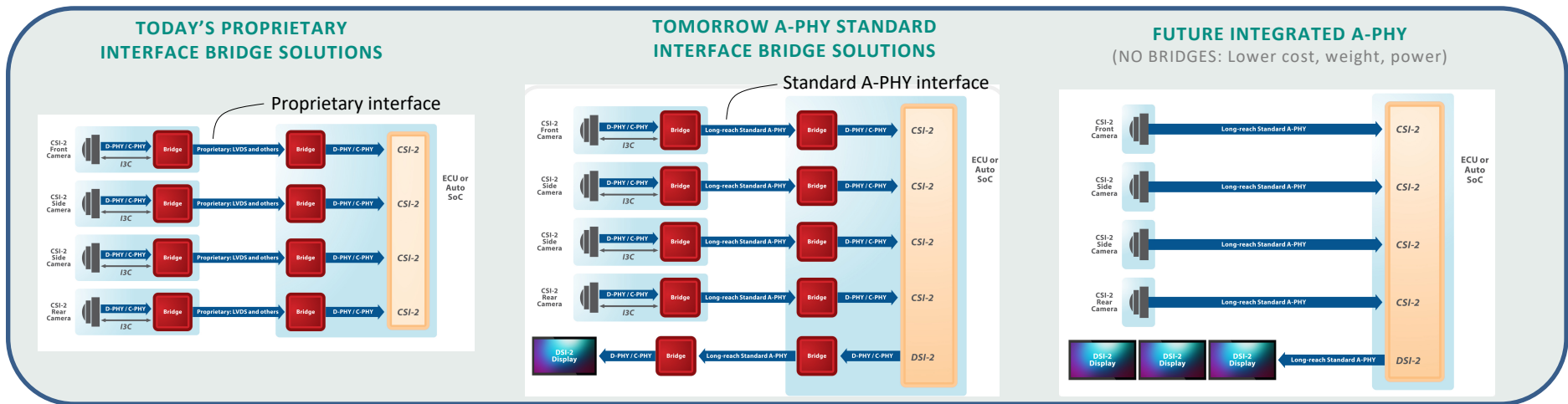
NCAP: New Car Assessment Program

ADAS: Advanced Driver Assistance System

ADS: Autonomous Driving System

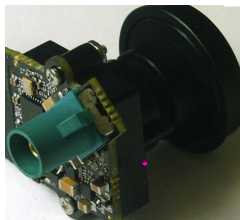
# What is MIPI A-PHY?

- MIPI A-PHY is a physical layer specification targeted for ADAS/ADS surround sensor applications and Infotainment display applications in automotive. Version 1.0 will provide a 15-meter reach and data rates of 2-16 Gbps, with a roadmap to 24, 48 Gbps and beyond.
- MIPI A-PHY is the ONLY standard interface to support native camera (MIPI CSI-2<sup>SM</sup>) and display (MIPI DSI-2<sup>SM</sup>) interfaces for automotive. An adaptation layer is also being developed for VESA DisplayPort and eDP.



# Challenges to be solved require: A-PHY + MIPI Protocols

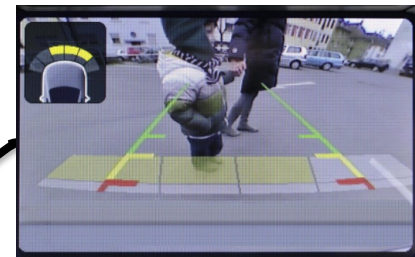
Camera sensor



ECU



Display



## Robust Automotive Long Reach Link

- PER =  $10^{-19}$  : 1 packet error in ~10000 car-lifetimes
- High Speed Downlink and aggregation to support **multiple** 4K cameras and displays
- Asymmetric high speed link with fixed low latency  $\sim 6\mu\text{s}$  @G5

## End to End Functional Safety

- Enabling Integration of devices using MIPI protocols over A-PHY in ASIL B or ASIL D Systems
- A-PHY **and** Protocols (CSI-2, DSI-2) FuSa from Source to Sink

## End to End Security

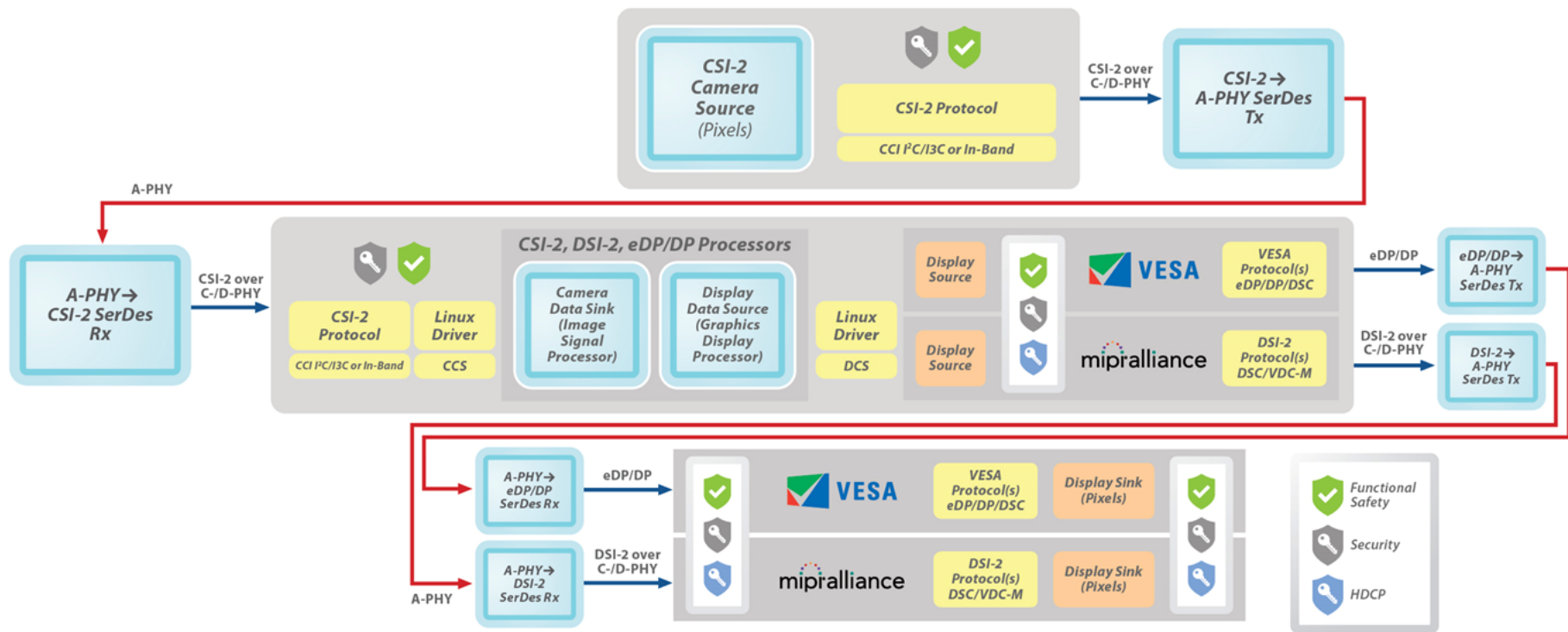
- Authentication; prevention of tampering (malicious and non-malicious)
- High Definition Content Protection (HDCP) for display applications

## Heterogeneous Interfaces

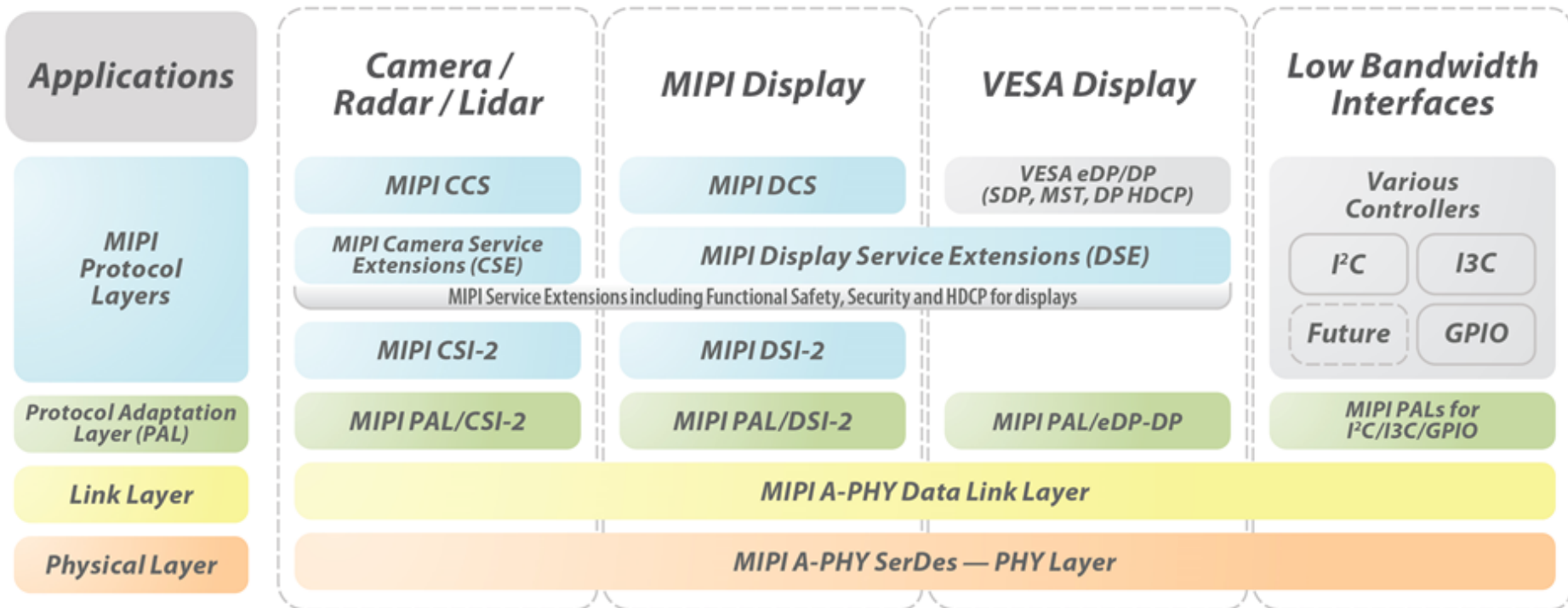
- Common support for multiple display protocols: DSI, Display Port, eDP, OpenLDI
- Agnostic to source/sink PHY configuration : C-PHY, D-PHY, Lanes count

# MASS: MIPI Automotive SerDes Solutions

A vision for End-to-End System



# Automotive Protocol Stack-up Diagram





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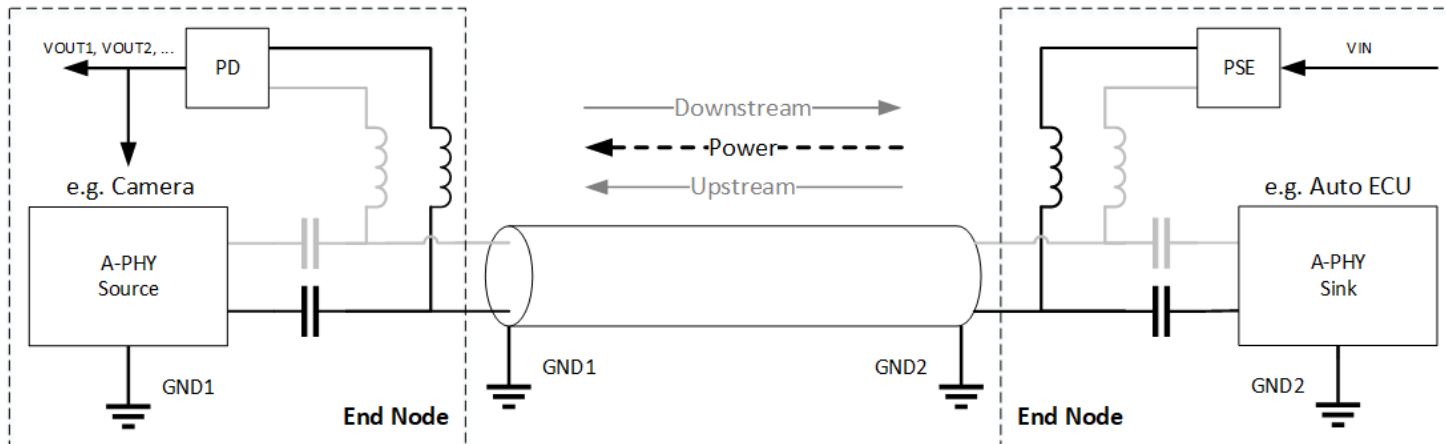
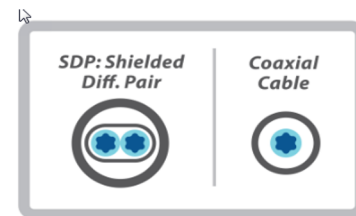
# Gears and Profiles

- One Rate/line-code/modulation per Downlink Gear
- Single Uplink Gear
- Two Noise/Performance Profiles (with full inter-profile interoperability):
  - **Profile 1:** optimized for low cost/power implementations for the lower gears with lower Noise immunity and target PER of  $<10^{-9}$
  - **Profile 2:** optimized for Vehicle Life-span, link robustness for all Gears with high noise immunity and target **PER of  $<10^{-19}$**
- A-PHY Device supporting Gear N (N could be 1–5) shall support all lower gears.

Gear Data Rate	Modulation [One modulation per Gear]	Symbol Rate [GBaud]	Net Application Data Rate [Gbps]
<b>G1</b> 2 Gbps	NRZ-8b/10b	2	1.5
<b>G2</b> 4 Gbps	NRZ-8b/10b	4	3
<b>G3</b> 8 Gbps	PAM4	4	7.2
<b>G4</b> 12 Gbps	PAM8	4	10.8
<b>G5</b> 16 Gbps	PAM16	4	14.4
<b>Uplink, All Gears</b> 100Mbps	NRZ-8b/10b	0.1	0.055 (55Mbps)

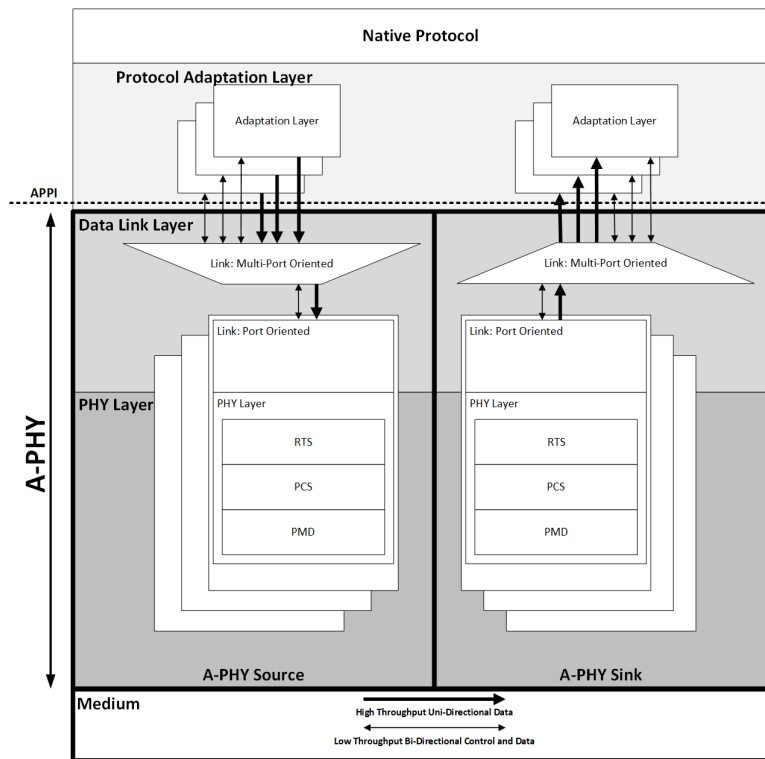
# Interconnect Channel

- A-PHY is a single lane, point-to-point, serial communication technology
- Support for multiple cable types – SDP/Coax
- Power over Cable support
- Up to 15m with 4 inline connectors



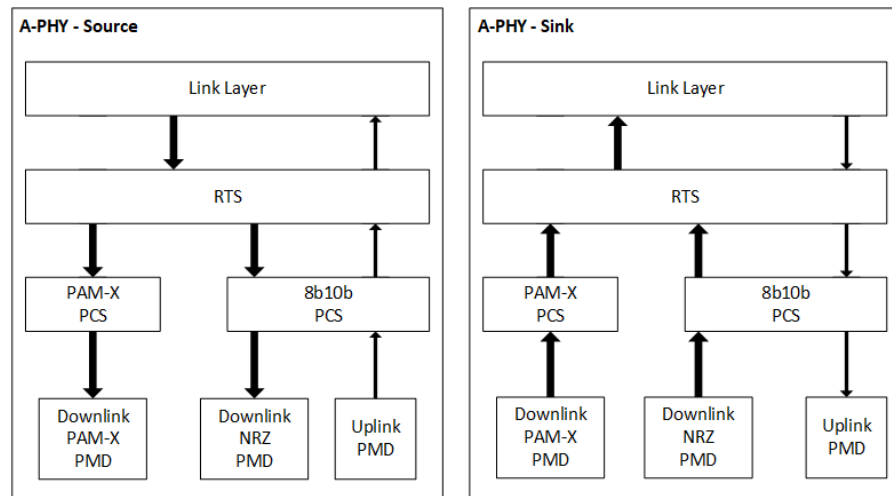
# High Level Structure

- **Native Protocol**
  - e.g. MIPI CSI-2, MIPI DSI-2, I2C, GPIO
- **Protocol Adaptation Layer (PAL)**
  - Mapping to/from Native Protocol to A-Packet
- **APPI**
  - Interface between A-PHY Port and PAL
- **Data Link Layer**
  - Performs A-Packet scheduling, prioritization and forwarding
- **Physical Layer**
  - Encodes and decodes symbols extracted from A-Packets according to the modulation scheme used per Gear.
  - Modulated symbols are transmitted and received over the A-PHY interconnect according to the medium-dependent electrical specifications



# PHY Layer

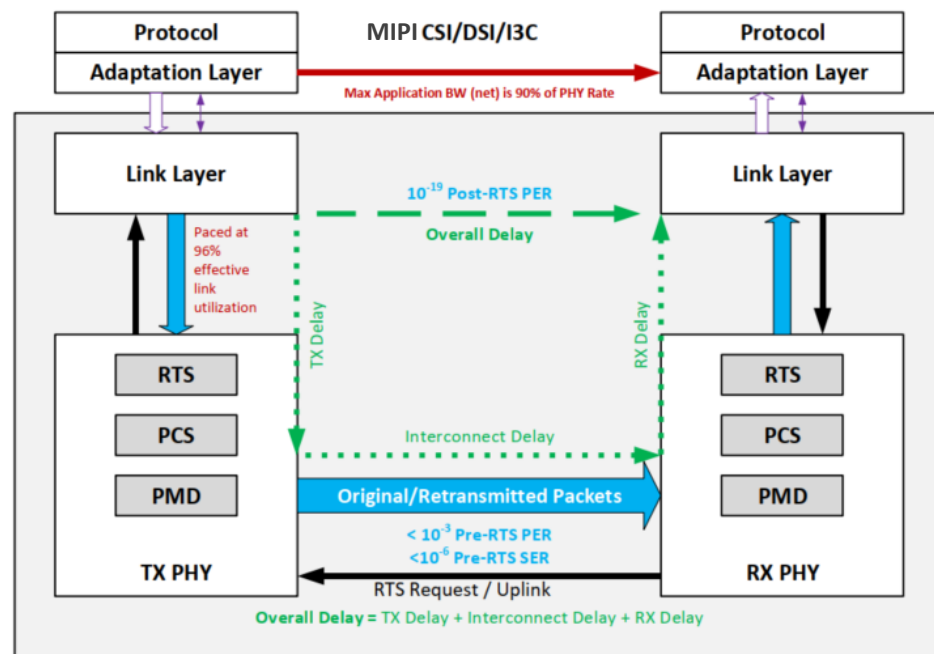
- Unified structure to reduce complexity
- Shared 8B/10B PCS for G1/G2 and Uplink
- RTS Sub-Layer
  - Manage Data Pacing and buffering
  - Assign Message Counter (MC) and CRC
  - P2 - the retransmission process for A-Packets that are erroneous or that are not received
- PCS Sub-Layer
  - specifies the conversion of Data Link Layer A-Packets into PHY Symbols.
  - In P2, PCS also handles the JITC(\*) Re-Training
- PMD Sub-Layer
  - Defines the electrical specifications and the physical medium



(\*) JITC – Just In Time Cancellers (Cancellers that are used only when needed as channel changes)

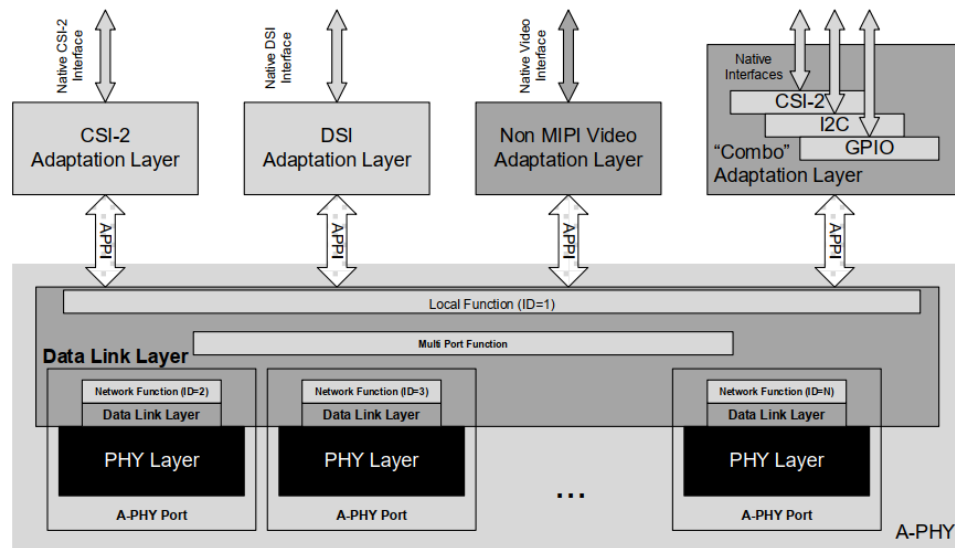
# RTS - Time Bounded Local PHY Level Retransmission

- **Time Bounded**
  - Retransmission is attempted only within predefined “Overall Delay” (e.g.  $\sim 6\mu\text{S}$  @G5)
- **Local PHY Level**
  - Transparent to upper layers
  - Happens within a single A-PHY Hop
- **Dynamically Modulated**
  - Retransmitted packets has better error resistant data payload Sub-Constellation.
- **Highly Reliable**
  - **PER (Packet Error Rate)  $< 10^{-19}$**
- **Highly Resilient**
  - Overcome Thousands symbols-long Error bursts
  - Multiple 10s of mVs, instantly attacking, NBI Peak.
- **Low Overhead**
  - Overall PHY + Link  $< 10\%$  → **90% Net Data rate**



# Data Link Layer

- The A-PHY Data Link Layer is a protocol agnostic layer that performs scheduling, prioritization and forwarding of A-Packets.
- Each Protocol Adaptation Layer has at least one APPI connection to the A-PHY Data Link Layer.
- A-PHY Data Link Layer may be connected to multiple Protocols Adaptation Layers using a single Local Function.
- The A-PHY Data Link Layer may have a single A-PHY Network Function connected to it, or multiple A-PHY Network Functions



- The A-PHY Data Link Layer Enables A-Packet:
  - Forwarding
  - Prioritization
  - Duplication
  - Scheduling



# Functional Safety

- A-PHY packets are end-to-end protected as recommended in ISO-26262:2018:
  - CRC-32 for each packet, providing a Hamming-Distance of more than 3.
  - Message Counter that is 8 bits wide.
  - Timeout monitoring is fulfilled by the Keep-Alive function.
- The above measures are necessary to argue a high diagnostic coverage for a communication bus, per *Table D.6* in ISO 26262-5:2018
- All other functional safety features necessary in order to fulfil the required system-level safety goal with ASIL is expected to be managed by upper layers.

# Noise Immunity

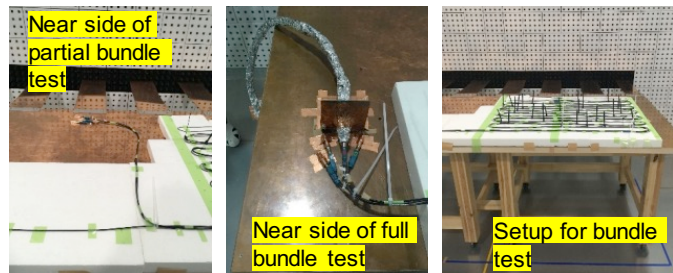
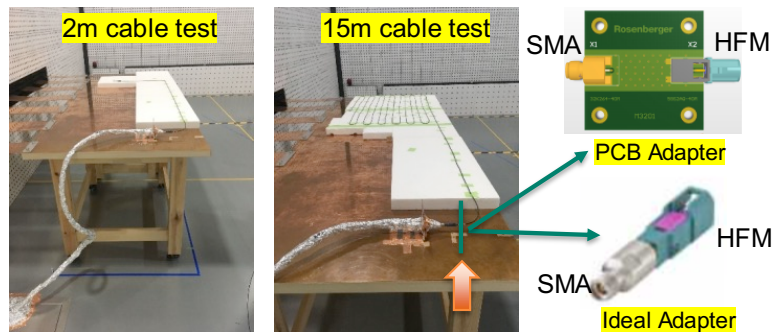
- There is a major variance in the OEM EMC requirements, from those who aim for minimal noise immunity, to OEMs that apply stringent requirement to protect their system
- A-PHY two profiles provide two noise immunity levels, to accommodate this variance.
  - P1 has lower noise immunity, similar to other SERDES solutions and is applicable for G1 and G2 (optional G3)
  - P2 has very high noise immunity based on MIPI Alliance analysis of expected noise level for the car life-time period.
- MIPI conducted multiple tests in an independent labs evaluating the noise levels and shielding effect degradation after mechanical stress and aging
  - The results helped evaluate the different available technologies
  - The research continues as part of MIPI A-PHY SG activities

# Characteristics of RF Ingress Test

## Test Conditions

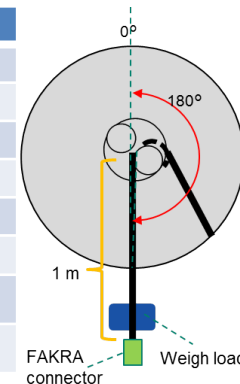
**Cable:** Two types of Dynamics Coax cables in length of 2m and 15m

### Lab Conditions:

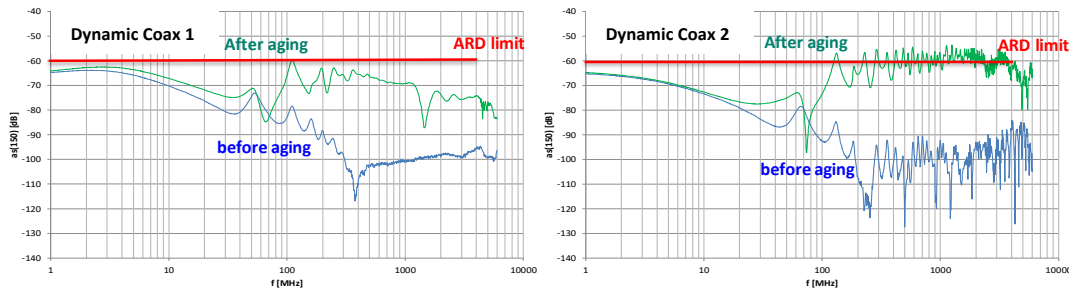


## Bending Fatigue & Temperature Cycling Test

Mechanical condition	Bending angle	180°
	Bending diameter	60 mm
	Bending Speed	10 times/min
	Weight load	3 N (~0.3kgf)
Temperature condition	Temp. cycle	See below fig.
	Temp. range	-25~25~105°C
Total number of bending		36000 times
Total time		Roughly 72 hours



### Screening Attenuation Test Result



## A-PHY Future Outlook

- MIPI is working on the upcoming MIPI A-PHY V1.1 release
- This is an incremental version to the A-PHY V1.0
- Main A-PHY V1.1 features
  - **Up to 32Gbps** throughput using Dual Lane Downlink support over STQ cables
  - Double Rate Uplink (DRU) with 125Mbps Uplink effective throughput
  - PAM-4 support for lower gears – Better noise immunity with lower working frequency enabling usage of lower costs cables and connectors
- Additional Protocol Adaptation Layers – 100Mbps ETH and I2S

# Concluding Thoughts

- *In-vehicle architecture is **rapidly evolving** . . .*
- *Increased focus on **surround sensor applications** for ADAS / autonomous driving . . . Best served by dedicated high-speed asymmetric interfaces from sensors to ECU.*
- *Standardization important for **economies of scale, lower cost & greater capabilities**.*
- *The native MIPI protocols (CSI-2, DSI-2, I3C, others, available in billions of devices) with **A-PHY deliver enormous benefit** to the automotive industry . . . performance, cost, noise immunity, and long-term EBOM reduction via elimination of interface bridges.*
- *The MIPI solution is being developed to **meet the broadest spectrum** of automotive industry needs . . . with anticipated SOP as early as 2024.*



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